

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the attention accorded to the instant application, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the application as amended.

Formal Matters

In this Response, claims 7 and 9-12 are amended to recite that the business procedure is performed based on a generation sequence determined by the how (1H) information of the demand information. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 6, line 27 to page 7, line 5.

Specification

In the specification, the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 27 and the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 10 are amended to make minor editorial corrections.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Wilson et al., U.S. Patent Applicant Publication No. 2002/0133387 (hereinafter “Wilson”). This rejection should be withdrawn based on the comments and remarks herein.

Among the problems recognized and solved by Applicant’s claimed invention is the need for a system and method capable of quick accommodation to business process reengineering and changes proposed by quality control activities. Applicant’s solution includes classifying business process information as demand information, which provides instructions, and supply information, which is performance report information responding to the demand. The demand information and corresponding supply information are treated as a set of information, and a

business procedure establishes the generation sequence of a plurality of sets of information, and a business flow includes a plurality of business procedures. Thus, a business process is classified into a business procedure and a business process flow which are both managed by a master table. Accordingly, using applicant's invention, it is possible to change an entire business process as well as an underlying business procedure by making a change in the master table.

Specifically, the present application discloses a 5W1H-type database, that is, a database comprised of "5W" information including Who, to Whom, When, Where, What data items, and "1H" information including How information. In this database, by merely changing the "1H" or how instructions of a demand, such as the details of an instruction regarding How to purchase material, it is possible to change a business process. Independent claim 7 recites "said business process based on a generation sequence determined by said 1H information of said demand information". Similarly, independent claims 9-12 recite "said business procedure defining a generation sequence of a plurality of sets of said demand information and supply information, said generation sequence determined by said 1H information of said demand information". Thus, the business process or procedure is determined from the "how" or "how to do" information in the demand information, and changing this demand information results in a different business procedure or process.

In contrast, Wilson discloses a particular method for managing a supply chain. Specifically, as shown in Figures 5A and 5B, Wilson discloses receiving an order, finding the closest warehouse, and then shipping the order. As the Examiner has acknowledged, Wilson discloses only "how much", not "how" or "how to do". The steps to be performed by Wilson cannot be determined based on the "how much" (1H) information of the demand information. Accordingly, Wilson does not disclose or suggest "said business process based on a generation

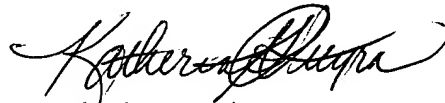
sequence determined by said 1H information of said demand information” as recited in claim 7 of the present invention. Similarly, Wilson does not disclose or suggest “said business procedure defining a generation sequence of a plurality of sets of said demand information and supply information, said generation sequence determined by said 1H information of said demand information” as recited in claims 9-12 of the present invention.

It has been held by the courts that “Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim.” *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist and Derrick Company et al.*, 730 F.2d 1452, 221 USPQ 481 (Fed. Cir. 1984). As illustrated above, Wilson does not disclose each and every feature of the invention as recited in independent claims 7 and 9-12. Thus, these independent claims are patentable over the art of record in the application. Claim 8 depends from claim 7, incorporating all of the features and limitations of its base claim. Thus, claim 8 is patentable over the art of record in the application for at least the reasons that its base claim is patentable over the art of record in the application. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is kindly requested.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth in the foregoing discussion, Applicant believes that the Application is now allowable, and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow the Application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or regarding the Application generally, she is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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